

Frequently Asked Questions

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Tax exemption on employees' salaries during lock down

BPN is currently interviewing 150 entrepreneurs during the national lockdown following the spread of COVID-19. In this document we provide answers to the questions that are most often asked by the different entrepreneurs. We will update this document regularly and share it with you. If you have questions, or maybe also answers, make sure to share them with your BPN coach.

1. Is there any support available for us to be able to keep our staff?

The COVID-19 lockdown is a heavy threat to economies worldwide, but it is the only way countries can contain the spread of the corona virus. For entrepreneurs, these are worrying times and the end is not yet in sight. Many of you are facing a reduction or an absolute stop in sales. Furthermore, you need to find solutions to keep your employees.

The good news is that Rwanda is among the countries doing a good job in managing the spread of COVID-19 and in caring for its people in these times of crisis. Rwanda has put in place a National Task Force including MINECOFIN, MINICOM, RDB and PSF, who are monitoring closely the impact on the Rwandan economy and proposing mitigating solutions accordingly. This task force will come up with a recovery plan to rebuild the economy after the lockdown, when the overall impact can be assessed.

One thing is clear already today: Payroll maintenance is one of the best ways to avoid a protracted depression. Among others, Bloomberg journalists are promoting this as the Number One solution for economic recovery, because by paying employees, you give them purchasing power which allows the business cycle to start running again. This solution was also mentioned by many of you as a preferred solution in your interactions with the BPN coaches. Now, the Rwandan government also recognises this as a top priority. **It has been decided that tax exemption will be given for all salaries that are paid during the lockdown, starting from the month of April.**

BPN is working closely with PSF and RDB in this time of crisis. BPN can assist you in requesting for tax exemption in case you plan to pay April salaries. We will soon send out an email with the technical details on what you need to do to benefit from this. If you would like to make use of this service, please follow up with your BPN coach.

We would like to motivate you in these difficult times to stick to the values that are important to you and your business. For all the solutions you will implement, think about the wellbeing of your employees among others. We are aware it is not easy.

BPN is here for you. Stay well! Stay healthy!

A BPN entrepreneur's quote for your inspiration:

"In these times of crisis, let's not look at our personal situation. Let's fight for the jobs we have created. Our employees expect us to be strong and find clever solutions. Let's not get trapped. Let's do anything we can for the people who have worked hard for you."